

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 20 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 have been amended. Claims 2, 5 – 9, 11 and 14 – 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3 – 4, 10 and 12 – 13 accordingly remain pending in the application.

The Examiner indicated Claims 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

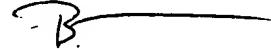
Claims 1 – 4 and 10 – 13 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over van de Waerdt and in view of Koyanagi, et al. Claims 5 – 19 and 14 – 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over van de Waerdt and in view of Koyanagi and further in view of Hagersten, et al. While Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, Applicant has nevertheless amended Claim 1 to include the features of 19 and intervening Claim 2, and Claim 10 has been amended to include the features of Claim 20 and intervening Claim 11.

Applicant has further amended the Title, the Summary and the Abstract in view of the amendments to the Claims.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-62001.

Respectfully submitted,



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